

**WHITE CREEK TOWN BOARD MINUTES**  
**APRIL 09, 2024**

The White Creek Town Board held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 09, 2024 at the Major John Wilson Sprague Building, 28 Mountain View Drive, Cambridge, NY. Supervisor Lance Wang called the meeting to order at 7pm. The Town Clerk took the roll call. Town Board members, Gregory Austin, Carey Murphy and Tammy Taber were all present. Gregory Woodcock was absent. Also attending the meeting was Budget Officer Lester Losaw and Highway Superintendent Chris Rieben.

**Resolution 22-2024 – Approval of March 12, 2024 Board Minutes**

Carey Murphy made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the Town Board minutes as presented. Tammy Taber seconded the motion and all others voted in favor of approval.

**New Business**

Ken Gottry explained to the Board that he had been doing some research in regards to the first Town Boards for Towns of White Creek, Jackson and Cambridge. He wanted to reach out to the Board to see if they would have interest in a reenactment of the first meeting in 1773. The Board members thought this was a great idea and will look forward to planning this for February of 2025.

**Variance Request – Resolution 23-2024**

Kate Jo Mohammed Ali was present at the meeting to request a twenty-five (25) foot variance for a garage to be placed at 34 Rice Lane. Kate Jo explained to the board the reasons for requesting the variance and also presented a letter from the bordering property owners stating that they did not have any issues with the twenty-five foot set back. The Board reviewed the request, a motion to grant the request for a variance was made by Supervisor Lance Wang, seconded by Tammy Taber and all others voted in favor.

**Spring Roadside Cleanup**

The annual spring roadside cleanup was scheduled for April 27-28<sup>th</sup>. Garbage bags and vests will be available at the Highway Garage and the Town Office.

**Old Business**

**Building Repairs Bids- Resolution 24-2024**

The Board opened one bid that was received from Powell Woodcock Construction, LLC for the repairs to the Town Office Building. Mr. Woodcock submitted a bid in the amount of five thousand, four hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$5,477.00). Gregory Austin made the motion to accept the bid from Mr. Woodcock. The motion was seconded by Carey Murphy and all others present voted in favor.

**Highway Garage Bid – Painting – Resolution 25-2024**

The Board also received a bid for the scraping, sanding and painting of the Highway Garage from Powell Woodcock Construction at a price of four thousand, two hundred dollars (\$4,200.00). Motion to accept the bid was made by Gregory Austin, seconded by Carey Murphy and all others present voted in favor.

### **Planning Board Public Hearing for Verizon Cell Tower**

A Public Hearing was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Site Plan application for the cell tower on State Route 22 behind the Dollar General Store. The Planning Board approved the application for Site Plan with two conditions. These conditions are to notify the airport on Plains Road in the Town of Jackson and to secure a bond for removal of the tower if it is ever abandoned.

### **Resolution 26-2024 – Work Place Violence Prevention Policy**

The Board voted to approve a Work Place Violence Prevention Policy dated April 5, 2024 as presented. Motion to approve by Carey Murphy, seconded by Tammy Taber and all present voted in favor of approval.

### **Resolution 27-2024 – Record of Activities for NYS Retirement submitted by Supervisor Wang**

The Board passed a resolution establishing the standard work day for Supervisor Wang, after he had submitted his record of activities to the Clerk. Motion by Tammy Taber, seconded by Gregory Austin and all others voted in favor (Supervisor Wang abstained). The resolution will be posted for 30 days and then forwarded to the Retirement System.

### **Assessor's Report**

Assessor Darryl Caputo did not attend the meeting, but he did provide the Board with a monthly report of activities. Darryl has still been very busy preparing the tentative tax roll and exemption applications. There were 15 transfers for the month of February. He has also been meeting with property owners for assessment reviews.

### **Town Clerk's Report**

Town Clerk Lisa Austin-Cuddihy submitted the monthly report for March in the amount of \$490.00 with \$478.00 of that as revenue for the Town. Tax Collection has been completed and returned to the Treasurer's Office. Tax collection for the month of March totaled \$143,154.60.

### **Budget Officer's Report**

Budget Officer Lester Losaw submitted the monthly operating statement to the Board. The payroll transition is going slower than anticipated but Lester hopes to be set to do the next payroll for April.

### **Highway Superintendent's Report**

Highway Superintendent Chris Rieben submitted a monthly report of activities to the Board. The crew had been out plowing and sanding, using 560 yards of sand, 100 ton salt and 600 gallons of brine. As long as the state budget passes, Chris plans to blacktop North Hoosick, Jodie and Grandma Moses Roads along with the bottom of Cobble Hill Road. The Board approved Chris's request to attend the annual highway school in Ithaca this June.

### **Resolution 28-2024 – Summer Hours for Highway Department**

The Board unanimously approved Chris's request to begin the ten hour/four day week (Monday-Thursday) beginning on Monday, April 15 and concluding on October 21, 2024. Motion to approve was made by Tammy Taber, seconded by Gregory Austin and all others present voted in favor.

### **Audit Report – Resolution 29-2024**

Gregory Austin made the motion to approve all vouchers submitted for payment in the amount of \$26,003.40 (general fund: \$7,190.50 and highway fund: \$18,812.90). Carey Murphy seconded the motion and all voted in favor of resolution.

### **Town Historian's Report**

Historian Ted Rice submitted a report of monthly activities. Ted has been working on some videos and hiked into Chestnut Woods State Forest investigating an old mill he discovered there.

### **Supervisor's Report**

#### **Resolution 30 and 31-2024 – Honoring 50 years of service to Cambridge Fire Department**

The Board unanimously voted to approve resolutions honoring Gerald Aiken and Gary Danio for fifty years of dedicated service to the Cambridge Fire Department. Carey Murphy made the motion to approve said resolutions, seconded by Tammy Taber and all voted in favor.

Supervisor Wang reported that approval has been given for .GOV, so work can begin on changing emails and improving the website.

### **Public Comments**

Resident Perry Young suggested that an unused plow be painted with the Town of White Creek on it and be placed out front of the garage.

Residents Ron and Renee McEvilly both spoke about the Town Assessor and the missing file and key that had been discussed back in November 2023. They also referred to comments on social media by the Town Assessor.

In order to reply to their requests Supervisor Wang read into the record a statement of facts and timeline in regards to his investigation of various allegations and questions that have been raised during meetings over the past year. After an investigation of an incident that occurred in February of 2023 in regards to the security camera in the Town Office Building being erased, the allegation of an erased recording is not substantiated. The allegations of an assault occurring at the town office are also not substantiated. The investigation into the misplaced key and missing file from the Assessor's Office was also found to be not substantiated. The file was located and the Town Clerk assured the Board that all office keys are accounted for and other than an occasional civic group meeting and elections; only town employees have access into the building.

The Town of White Creek has taken the following comprehensive security focused actions since January of this year:

- Formed a Security Committee focused on physical security and protection of PPI
- Camera investigation
- Camera password change
- Internal/external lock change
- Closed offices to public entrance and marked accordingly
- Work place violence training
- Workplace violence policy approval

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business on the agenda, Tammy Taber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Carey Murphy and all others voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Austin-Cuddihy  
White Creek Town Clerk